

Summary of the August 2020 for KY K-12 Education Technology Leaders' Virtual Meeting

In case you missed it or want a refresher, the following is what we talked about during the August 18, 2020 EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at <https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/featured/2020/08/edtech-webcast-august-2020/>.

Public viewing of the archived webcasts and written summaries are also available on the KDE Media Portal at: <http://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/>. Numbers in **RED** indicate the timestamp for that portion of the discussion so it can be easily located on the full digital recording.

This was a virtual meeting with all our OET staff and all the districts joining via Microsoft Teams and/or YouTube. We will continue to make these available from our KDE media portal so that you can watch the archived discussion and share with the appropriate people in your district. Several GoSoapBox poll questions were posed throughout the meeting and district EdTech leaders were asked to respond with their best swag to all the questions as it assists us in planning and getting a feel for how to best move forward. Your voice and your feedback are important and extremely helpful to us. As we approach the beginning of the school year, this may be the final time we will pose some of the questions we have asked you often as we have all worked diligently to prepare ourselves and educate our colleagues.

(3:13) Governor's meeting with the Superintendents Recap – The Governor's Office had a virtual meeting with the Superintendents through Microsoft Teams again. It was very successful. We were able to use what we learned from the previous experience along with the newer features of Teams. Superintendents joined the meeting muted and did very well in not sending the meeting request to others, so we did not exceed the 300-participant limit. Attendees did not enter through the lobby and we advised them to not join by phone unless they entered their name. All the coaching paid off and we had a very successful meeting. We appreciate your efforts in working with your Superintendents on the use of Teams. KY K-12 is like a Fortune 50 or a Fortune 100 company and when we use a product enterprise wide, we many times find a bug or a flaw in a product; that is what happened in the first virtual meeting through Teams with the use of the lobby functionality that can only handle a maximum of 100 people at the same time. Microsoft Teams is announcing some additional functionality soon and we are very pleased with the privacy and security features.

(15:24) Back to School Update – As we near the beginning of school, we must look at strategies for being frugal with and maximizing Internet bandwidth at KY K-12 schools and homes over the next school year for virtual/remote teaching and learning. This includes instructional design strategies for the schools and teachers to consider using with their KY K-12 students who are at their home. Back to school is going to look very different this fall, and we want to make sure we have capabilities in place for this to be successful and not crush our network. Do we have the capability to stream from every classroom in the building? The cool part about our design is that the upload/download speeds are the same in the KY K-12 school buildings and this gives us a great advantage in our current situation. We all have to be frugal and strategic in our use of the bandwidth and it will be important to educate and demonstrate best practices. David asked that everyone take some time to coach up their Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer on this topic. We have a communication and graphic that will be sent out soon to assist with these discussions.

This is a big topic of conversation and part of the design mode for the digital learning experience. We need to emphasize finding ways to be part of the design conversation for synchronous streaming for intentional digital interactions. We are not recommending a full day of streaming and we need to emphasize the experience part and the expectation of the student to participate (planned digital interactions to support student learning and the social/emotional interaction is also important). Video and live streaming is a tool, but not the only tool! Using these strategies can leverage strengths of your teachers and co-teachers and provide an opportunity to show demonstration. From a consideration perspective, our Wi-Fi needs to be top notch and we want to make sure

that we prioritize our bandwidth usage for learning. Think through the student experience, especially when there is a combined streaming/live teaching session.

(28:47) Internet Access/Computers of KY K-12 Students at School and at Home Update - David has briefed multiple groups and organizations on this recently as well as talking with the Herald Leader and Courier Journal. The Lexington Herald Leader article regarding the digital divide can be read at <https://www.kentucky.com/article244885897.html> . Even though the article was well done, they relied upon data from other sources and organizations that we feel don't accurately present our status. It is always important to emphasize and point out that all our schools are connected to the Internet—there are still a high percentage of people who do not know that we have had this in place since 1995.

The last mile to the home is still a concern. Kentucky has a better handle on this home access data than most states and we've been collecting this data for over a decade. We have tried to keep up with this over the past 10+ years to know what percentage of our students could complete basic school tasks from home. The introduction of non-traditional instructions (NTI) also brought increased interest in this data. The importance increased dramatically as NTI became the primary mode of instruction in March. Recently, KDE conducted a Family/Caregiver Needs-sensing Survey and the results of over 60,000 can be viewed through a dashboard view at https://kystats.ky.gov/Reports/Tableau/2020_FNSS. Our data has always shown between 9 to 15% that do not have Internet access at home that can be used for instruction. However, we've also always believed that it was close to 9% given that was the percentage when students and parents are asked directly. How this question is asked to parents/caregivers is also very important. For example, don't ask in a bit and bytes way (i.e., Do you have broadband? Can you download 25 Mbps?). Instead ask if they can do certain simple things that they are familiar with that require enough bandwidth speeds for instructional purposes (e.g., can you watch a YouTube video? Can you listen to music? Can you send an e-mail with an attachment? etc.).

Common Sense media conducted an independent survey in conjunction with the Boston Consulting Group regarding the digital divide and we were disappointed in the parameters used to conduct their study that can be reviewed here: <https://www.common sense media.org/kids-action/publications/closing-the-k-12-digital-divide-in-the-age-of-distance-learning>. Their percentage of close to 40% is way way off and very inaccurate. They did not base their results on parents/students' responses and they did not include wireless access; this resulted in numbers that did not reflect what we have captured for over a decade. We have found that parents of a KY K-12 students have a higher percentage of students who have a smartphone with Internet access. 90% of KY K-12 students above 3rd grade have a smartphone with Internet access. Nearly every KY K-12 middle school and high school student has a Smartphone with Internet access. KY has one of the very highest percentages of students with Smartphones with Internet access in the nation.

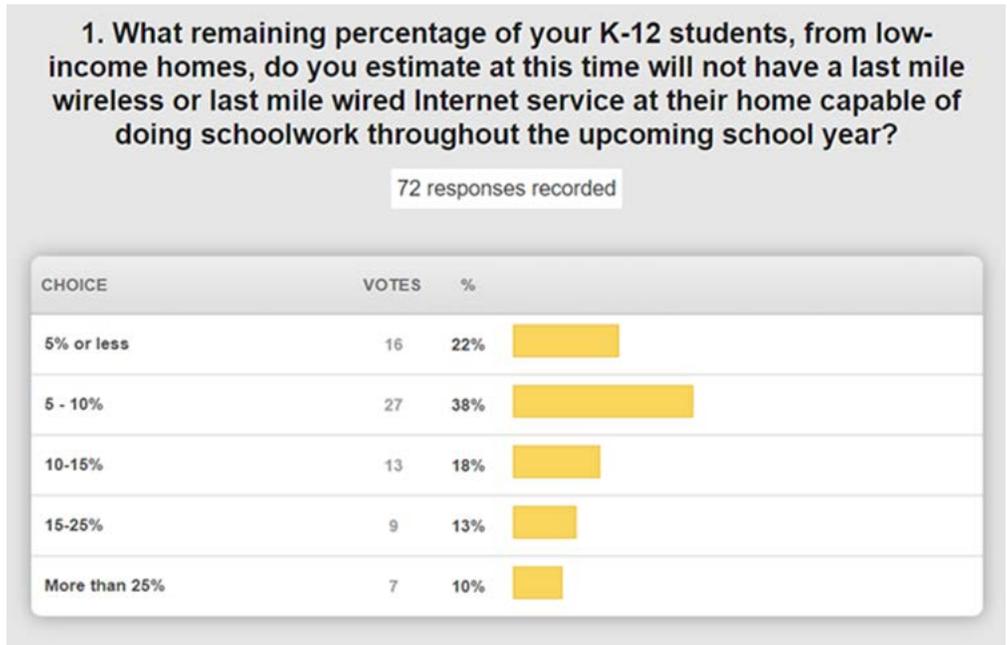
Kentucky put a middle mile network into every KY county in the early 90s. Since 2015 a second middle mile network has been added to each KY county. So, there are at least two middle mile networks in every KY county. Some counties have more than two. However, you can have 5-10 middle miles in every KY county and 90% of the challenge and cost is the last mile, especially if the last mile is wired. It is a huge financial investment to wire the last mile to every home in county. If there is declining population in a certain part of a county or the entire county then it's even more difficult for a private company to financially justify putting in a wired last mile Internet connection to those homes since they will have a tough time breaking even on that investment. Wireless connectivity for our students who do not already have an Internet connection to their home is a more timely and realistic goal over waiting for the wired connectivity to be put in place given that may be many years away from happening or may never happen.

The goal of the Last Mile for the KY K-12 student RFP is to get our last mile Internet vendors down to the \$10/month range for access costs. We are working to drive down the costs to make it affordable for districts to acquire for their students in low-income homes currently without Internet beyond their school. An Internet hotspot service can be provided through the students' smartphones or with a standalone device. We are also

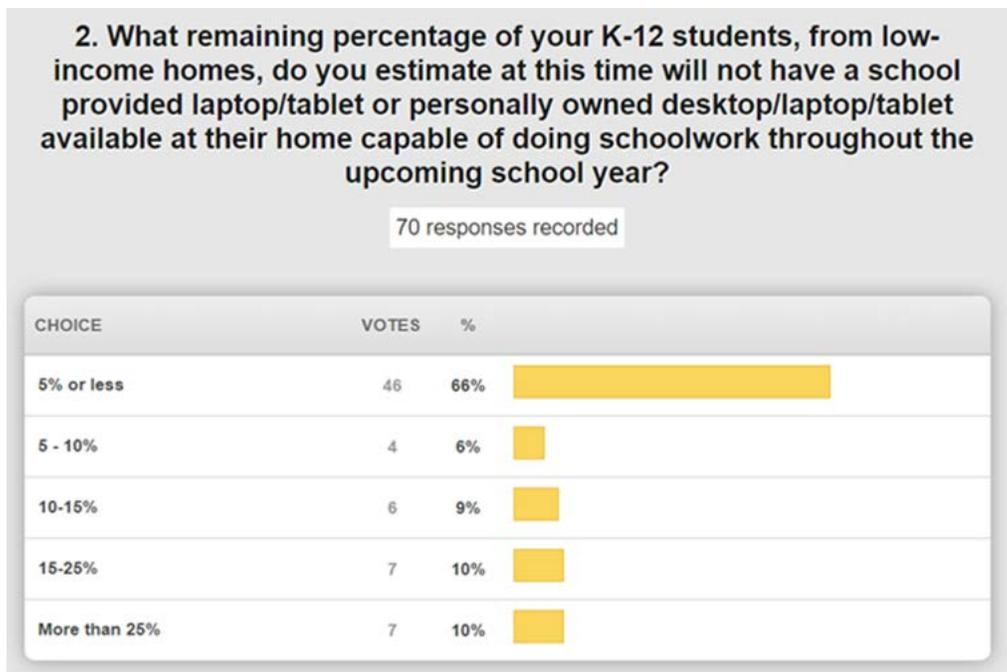
seeing how communities and businesses are driving down the costs or providing CARES funds to cover these costs.

Another consideration is the issuance/deployment of a laptop/tablet computer that a student can take for use at the home. Many districts allowed this in the middle and high school but hadn't gone done to the primary grades. The beginning of school has districts finding ways to address their younger grades.

(53:51) GoSoapBox Review – We dedicated a good portion of today's webcast to a detailed review and discussion of our poll questions.



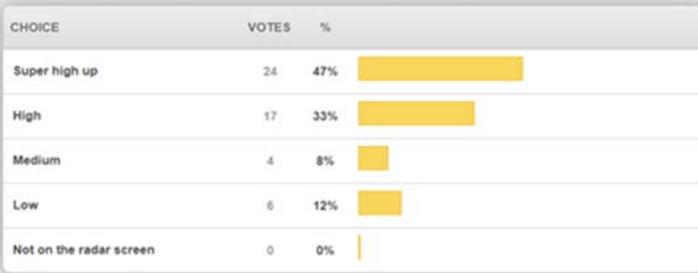
Southeastern KY has worse percentages than the rest of the state. We are open about that. We have been using 9 to 15% for quite some time.



This falls in alignment with what we were expecting.

3. Using a variety of district funds (SEEK, CARES, etc.), how high up on the radar screen do you estimate is it for your district to already have or provide a 1 to 1 mobile student device ratio that they are capable of taking home during next school year?

51 responses recorded



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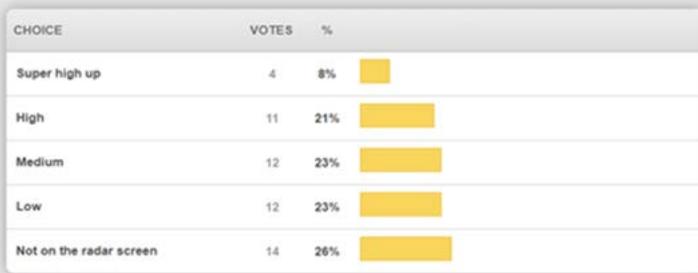
61 responses recorded



This is consistent with our previous responses. Eighty percent are either high or super high to ensure that a student already has or will have a device that they are capable of taking home during this school year. Several districts have had to rethink their original strategies because of delivery delays. July responses to this same question are to the right.

4. Using a variety of district funds (SEEK, CARES, etc.), how high up on the radar screen do you estimate is it for your district to pay for Internet access at the homes of low income students that do not already have Internet at their home during next school year?

53 responses recorded



2. Using a variety of district funds (SEEK, CARES, etc.), how high up on the radar screen do you estimate is it for your district to pay for Internet access at the homes of low income students that do not already have Internet at their home during next school year?

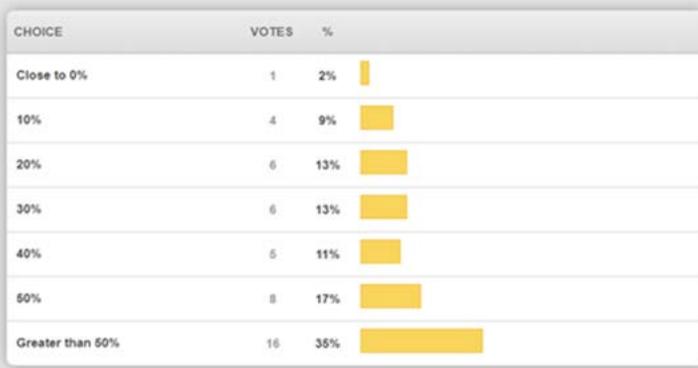
58 responses recorded



The responses are fairly similar for all the high/medium/low. The question we get is why don't we use the CARES funds going to our school districts to do this for our students who do not have this? We discussed the pros/cons of doing this for the last 5%. July responses to this same question are to the right.

5. Your district portion of the \$174M in CARES funds (ESSER) can be spent on a wide variety of products/services, including education technology products/services. What percentage do you estimate will go toward EdTech products and services?

46 responses recorded

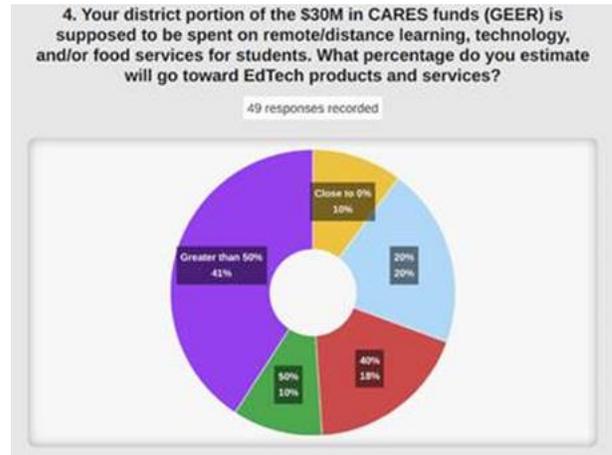
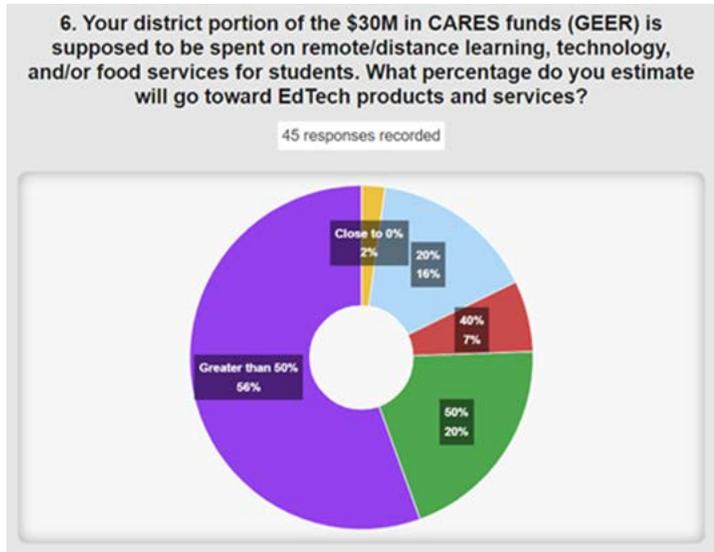


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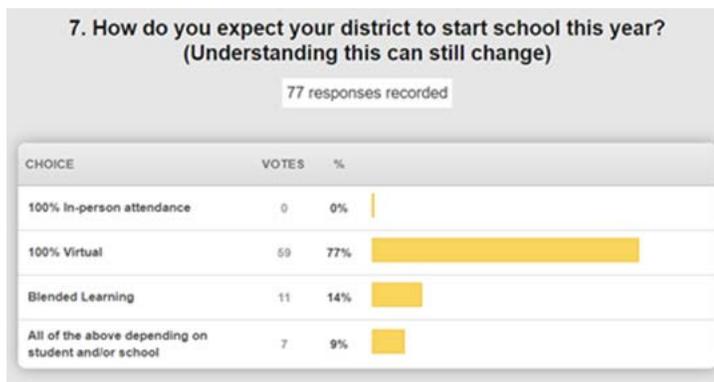
55 responses recorded



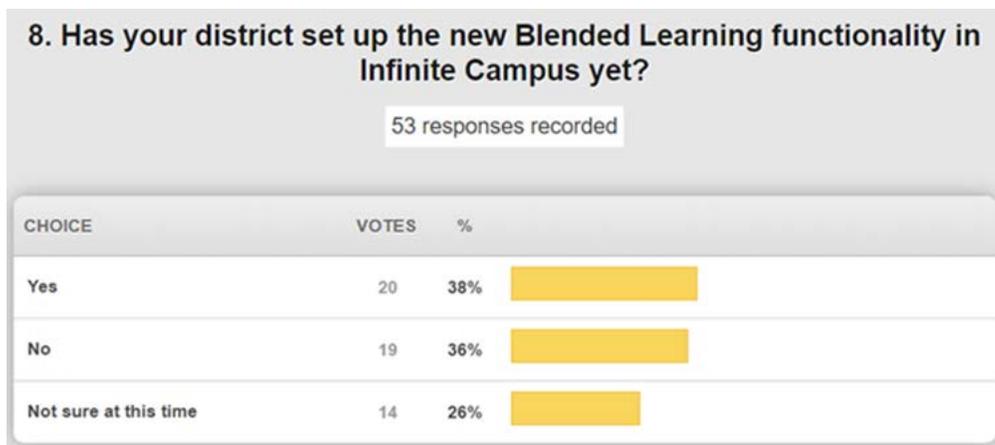
This is showing a high percentage of the ESSER funds (\$174M) being used for education technology products and services. July responses to this same question are to the right.



GEER funds are more focused in how they can be used. July responses to this same question are to the right.

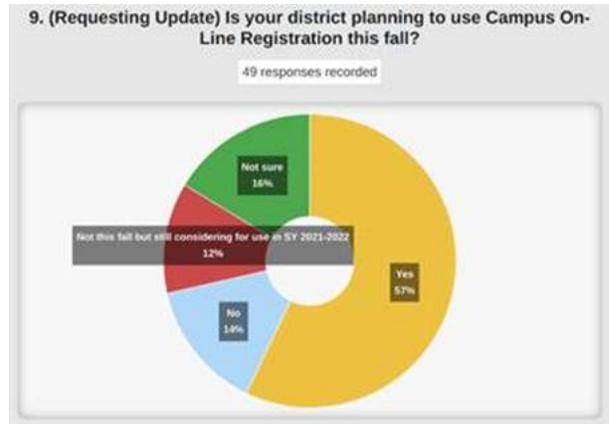
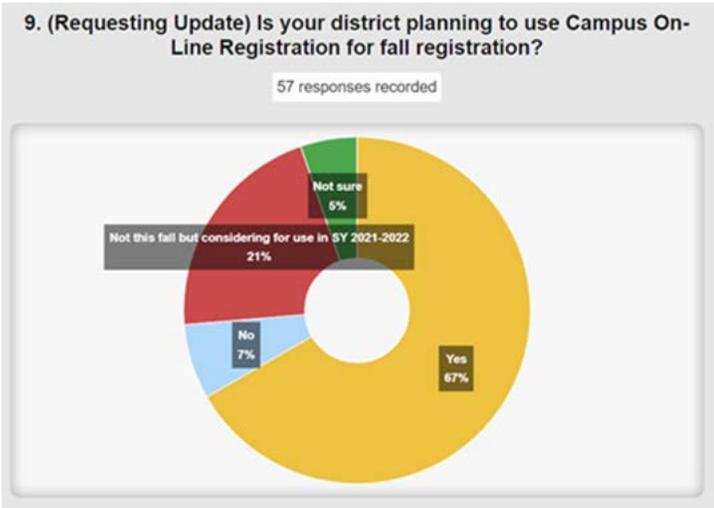


From our respondents, 77% are starting 100% virtual. Nothing substitutes in person instruction and we realize there is no easy response. This is being collected through the NTI contacts, but this will help us in our decision-making in this fast-paced environment. July responses to this same question are to the right. Of course, much of this shift is due to the Governor's recommendation that in-person attendance be delayed until September 28, 2020.

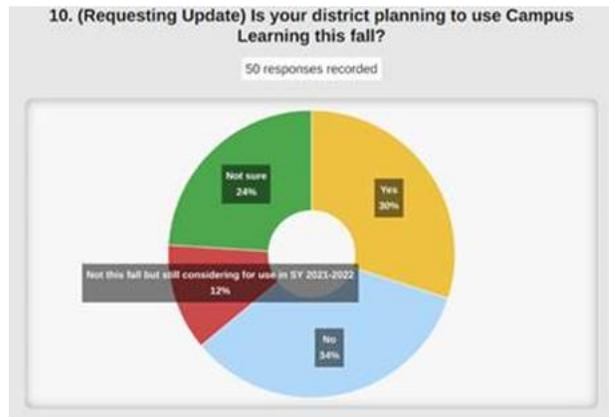
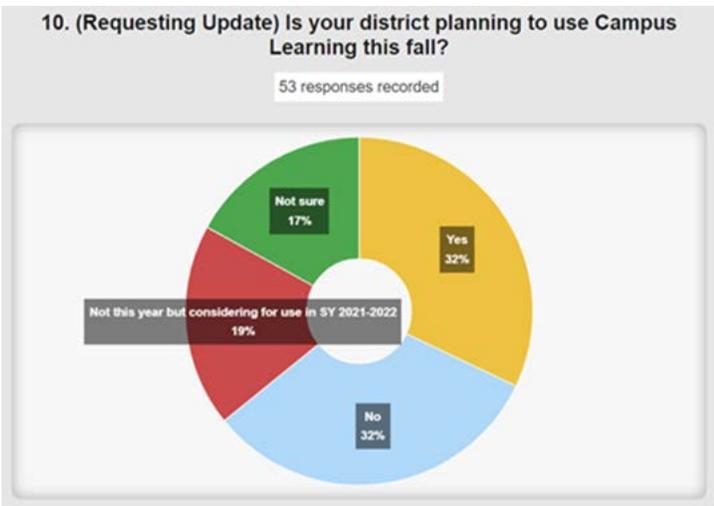


This functionality is required for this year and the Office of Finance and Operations (OFO) will be calculating participation using Infinite Campus. Having this set up and the ability to quickly pivot using the system is important. There has been a lot of office collaboration and there was 400+ participants in a recent training. We

need your help in getting the word out on this. It is somewhat concerning that 26% are not sure, but we do realize the CIOs may not be the primary audience for this item and this is really a shift in how “attendance” is thought of and captured.



We know we have 111 districts using Campus On-Line Registration; it’s a good time to think about what is working well. The next opportunity for customization will start in September. July responses to this same question are to the right.



We will pay for those districts that use; if your district has decided not to use, please let us know. Some districts opted not to use it initially because it did not have interoperability with Google Classroom. July responses to this same question are to the right.

11. What is your district status on completion of the School Report Card school-level technology data collection?

46 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Complete or nearly complete	4	9%	
Making good progress	17	37%	
Organizing and planning the review	10	22%	
Not started	8	17%	
Do not know, have not been involved	7	15%	

SRC is open now and that includes the technology data collection piece. The data needs to be validated and in the system by September 4th and data will be public on a similar timeline as in the past. Digital readiness collections are also being submitted at this time.

12. What is your role with School Report Card data review/approval?

53 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Provide oversight/direction for data review/approval efforts	4	8%	
Participate in School Report Card team working on data review/approval and collection	4	8%	
Data collection/reporting of technology data only	38	72%	
School Report Card data review/approval is not something I am involved in	7	13%	

(1:19:31) Lightspeed Update - It has been a busy end of the summer! We have 56,000 Chromebooks, 12,500 windows devices, 476 Macs, and almost 4000 IOS devices that have received the Lightspeed relay service. We have identified an issue with the orange block screen on a windows device when you are bringing up a legitimate website (this is not a Lightspeed issue). We are working with our providers to work toward a resolution and Lightspeed is also revising some code. This is in the works and will be available soon; it is in the testing phase. We'll keep you updated on the progress of this resolution and then we'll work toward implementing the analytics part.

(1:22:44) Digital Learning/Professional Development Update - The digital learning design labs are being launched at a regional level with the help of our educational cooperatives. We have to onboard our teachers and students as schools open up and then we have to onboard our parents. It's important to understand the 4 digital strategies that are shared on the website at <https://sites.google.com/education.ky.gov/digitalntiawesome/4-digital-strategies?authuser=0>. We are also moving full steam ahead and almost ready to present the digital learning coach stipend program.

(1:25:41) Annual KY K-12 Cybersecurity Health Check Update - All districts and KDE the agency are required by state law to complete this health check annually by the end of August. This is the last reminder before this is due by the end of August. Bob shared that while there is no template for this report out to the board, materials were sent out through the field staff a few months ago when we first started this conversation. If you need this again or need further discussion or direction, please reach out to Bob. There have been exponential increases for the attacks in phishing and other cyberattacks.

We really appreciate all the time and dedication that each of you has given over the summer as well as your ability to quickly pivot in the back to school strategies. Your efforts are heroic! Thanks for joining us today and we look forward to seeing you next month.